

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain pending in this application. Of these claims, claims 1-15 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by the Brandywine Software xNavigator Webpage, and claims 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Brandywine Software xNavigator webpage.

In view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, these rejections are traversed, and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Brandywine Webpage has a modification date of September 28, 2000. Applicant's filing date is December 18, 2000. Applicant reserves the right to swear behind this reference under 37 CFR §1.131 if necessary.

Applicant's claimed invention is a method and system for providing a functional visual representation of a spreadsheet. The method includes identifying cells in the spreadsheet as data entities and calculation entities that are interconnected by arrows to form the visual representation. The method also includes detecting changes in the cells of the spreadsheet and automatically changing the entities in the visual representation to correspond thereto. Further, the method includes detecting changes in the visual representation and automatically changing the spreadsheet in response thereto. Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method and system having this correlation between a visual representation of a spreadsheet and the spreadsheet itself.

The Brandywine Spreadsheet xNavigator Webpage shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and a visual representation of the spreadsheet similar to an influence diagram. The inventors have downloaded the trial version of the Spreadsheet

xlNavigator from this webpage to determine its capabilities. The inventors have found that by highlighting certain areas in the spreadsheet, a visual display of those areas is generated. The colors in a portion of the spreadsheet are represented by the same colors in the corresponding portion in the display. The toolbar of the visual display has an update box. The inventors have also found that each time a change is made to the spreadsheet the update box has to be clicked in order for that change to be reflected in the visual display. The inventors have further found that it is not possible to make changes to the visual display without first making changes to the spreadsheet and then clicking the update box.

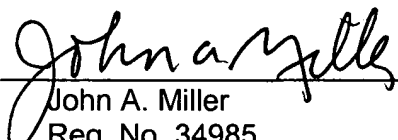
Applicant's claimed invention provides a much more robust visual representation of a spreadsheet, and method for corresponding a visual representation and a spreadsheet, than the xlNavigator. Each of independent claims 1, 10 and 18 has been amended above to make it more clear that any detected change in the spreadsheet is automatically reflected by a change in the visual representation. In other words, it is not necessary to perform a separate "click" step for changes made in the spreadsheet to be shown in the visual display. Therefore, the spreadsheet and the visual representation are automatically maintained as function equivalents, which is not done by the xlNavigator.

Moreover, Applicant's independent claims state that changes can be made directly to the visual representation that are automatically reflected in the spreadsheet. As discussed above, Applicant submits that the Brandywine Spreadsheet xlNavigator does not allow any direct changes to the visual display, but requires that the update box be clicked to show changes in the visual display already made to the spreadsheet. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Brandywine Spreadsheet xlNavigator cannot

anticipate or make obvious Applicant's invention as now claimed. It is therefore respectfully requested that the §102 and §103 rejections be withdrawn.

It is now believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal contact with Applicant's representative would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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